

chaired the U.S. Atlantic Salmon Assessment Committee and has been a working member of the International Commission on the Exploration of the Seas' North Atlantic Salmon Working Group.

Larry has devoted his entire career to restoring anadromous fish to New England rivers. His dedication and perseverance has been an inspiration to those who have worked toward this effort. Upon his retirement from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Larry and his wife Tracy will reside in Montana. I would like to thank Larry for his hard work and dedication to the restoration efforts of New England Rivers. It is an honor to represent Larry in the United States Senate.●

OUR OUTSTANDING AMBASSADOR IN BEIJING—JIM SASSER

●Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President. I join many other Senators in welcoming our former colleague, Ambassador James Sasser, back to the United States after his outstanding service as our Ambassador to the People's Republic of China.

America has vital foreign policy interests in China, and Ambassador Sasser has represented those interests skillfully and effectively for more than three years.

During his service as Ambassador, he has worked diligently to restore high level summitry between China and the United States. His able leadership has made the American Embassy in Beijing more responsive to the concerns and interests of American business. He has also worked tirelessly to promote dialogue with the Dalai Lama.

In the aftermath of the tragic, mistaken bombing of China's embassy in Belgrade in May, America's embassy in Beijing was under siege, and Ambassador Sasser was virtually held hostage in the embassy. During this extraordinarily difficult time, he ensured that American personnel were safe and accounted for. He displayed remarkable courage during this ordeal, and made America proud of him.

All of us who worked with Ambassador Sasser in the Senate knew he would excel when President Clinton nominated him for this position. I congratulate him on a job well done. We are proud of his remarkable accomplishments and the efforts he has made to strengthen the U.S.-China relationship.●

HONORING KBHP RADIO FOR THE CRYSTAL RADIO AWARD

●Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President. I rise today to pay tribute to a Minnesota radio station from Bemidji, KBHP-FM, for being honored with the 1999 Crystal Radio Award given by the National Association of Broadcasters. The Crystal Radio Award recognizes stations for their year-round commitment to community service. KBHP-FM was one of ten stations chosen to receive Crystals,

making this their third award since 1987. Since the Award's inception in 1987, eight other stations in Minnesota have joined the ranks receiving the Crystal. These stations are WJON-AM in St. Cloud, KSJN-FM in St. Paul, WWTC-AM, WCCO-AM, KQRS-FM/AM in Minneapolis (twice), KCUE-AM in Red Wing, KWOA-AM in Worthington, and WLTE-FM in Minneapolis.

I congratulate KBHP-FM for this great achievement and enter into the RECORD a brief description of the Station's work from the Crystal Radio Award program.●

ROBERT B. CONROY

●Mr. LIBERMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Robert B. Conroy of Westport Connecticut. Captain Conroy is a dedicated Veteran of World War II, a proud family man, and a fine example of the powerful American Spirit that weaves it way through the nation's history.

A member of the 359th Fighter Squadron and the 356th Fighter Group, Captain Conroy's plane was shot down by German forces over France in January of 1944. Despite his injuries, Captain Conroy survived as a prisoner of war in Stalag Luft I for sixteen months until the camp was liberated by Russian troops.

Captain Conroy's list of medals, including the Purple Heart and the Distinguished Flying Cross, only begin to tell the story about what makes him a true American hero. After his military career, Captain Conroy raised and supported a family while building a successful career in advertising. The principles of honor, integrity, and devotion to duty that he displayed during World War II have remained a critical part of his life and are the same principles he has instilled in his children. I hope my colleagues will join me in thanking Captain Robert Conroy for his service, both military and civilian, to this great nation.●

TRIBUTE TO SY MAHFUZ

●Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Sy Mahfuz, of Nashua, New Hampshire, for being selected a 1999 Business Leader of the Year by *Business NH Magazine*.

Sy, the owner of Persian Rug Galleries, has lived in Nashua for 46 years. His business is a fixture on Main Street and draws customers from all over the Northeast and New York. Persian Rug Galleries is known for both the quality of its products and the expertise of its employees.

Sy dedicates his time both to his business and to the community. In 1994, he fought to pass a bill which protects consumers from "going out of business" sales. He also is a major organizer of many downtown events. His leadership role in planning Twist the Night Away brought an estimated 100,000 people to Nashua's Main Street in 1998.

Sy's sense of responsibility for both his colleagues and neighbors has brought him success in the past. With his determination to succeed rooted in this responsibility he will surely continue to be a positive role model for his community.

Mr. President, I would like to wish Sy my sincere congratulations and best wishes. While running a successful family business, Sy had dedicated much of his time to having a positive impact on his community. His accomplishments are truly remarkable. It is an honor to represent him in the United States Senate.●

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AIR FORCE MEDICAL SERVICE

●Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, this month marks the 50th anniversary of the Air Force Medical Service. On July 1, 1949, the Air Force Medical Service was created, beginning a strong and rich tradition of providing health care to military personnel and their families.

Since the Korean War, the Air Force Medical Service has provided aerospace medicine support to our aviators. From ensuring pilots are physically fit to stand the rigors of flight to bringing physiological expertise to the design of fighter jet aircraft, aerospace medical personnel have maximized the performance and safety of our pilots.

Aeromedical evacuation of casualties proved valuable during World War II, and became the preferred mode of casualty evacuation during the Korean War. The Air Force Medical Service is responsible for fixed wing aircraft evacuation and manages a world-wide system for peacetime and wartime aeromedical evacuation.

Today, the Air Force Medical Service operates 37 medical center and hospitals and 41 clinics around the world, providing health care to a wide range of beneficiaries. When the Air Force Medical Services was created, only 4 percent of military troops had dependents. However, seventy percent of military personnel serving today have families. These dynamic changes have broadened the needs and expectations for medical services. In recent years, constrained resources and the initiation of TRICARE have added to the challenges. The Air Force Medical Service has always found innovative ways to ensure the mission was accomplished.

I congratulate the 52,000 men and women of the Air Force Medical Service on this milestone. I am confident that the proud traditions of the Air Force Medical Service will continue as its men and women provide the best combat medical support, aeromedical evaluation of the sick and injured, and health care to Air Force communities.●

RECOGNITION OF GENE CLAWSON, JR.

●Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize a great Montanan